

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04624 260609Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05

/064 W

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R 260525Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1693

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

USMTM DHAHRAN

SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET, SA, US

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF F-5A'S AND B'S

REF: A) JIDDA 3950; B) TEHRAN 5519; C) STATE 146725

D) JIDDA 4526; E) ADDIS ABABA 7418

1. AS SUGGESTED BY REF A AND CONFIRMED BY REF D, IT IS PROBLEMATIC AT BEST WHETHER THE SAG WILL PERMIT THE USAF TO OVERFLY SAUDI ARABIA TO DELIVER THE SURPLUS F5A'S AND B'S BEING TRANSFERRED FROM IRAN TO ETHIOPIA. WE EXPECT TO HAVE AN ANSWER ONE WAY OR THE OTHER VERY SHORTLY. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE.

2. WE APPRECIATE THE POSITION OF EMBASSY ADDIS: WE ALSO ARE FREQUENTLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SAUDI INISTRY OF DEFENSE TO HURRY UP DELIVERIES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

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IT STRIKES US THAT IN THE PRESENT CASE, HOWEVER, NEITHER

EMBASSY ADDIS NOR THE USG SHOULD BE THE PRINCIPLE BEARERS OF PRESSURE.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WE DO NOT SHARE THE EPMG'S NERVOUSNESS ABOUT SOMALI TROUBLEMAKING THIS SUMMER AND THAT OUR INTEREST IN RESPONDING TO ETHIOPIAN REQUESTS FOR RAPID DELIVERY IS FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND NOT TO MEET WHAT WE OURSELVES CONSIDER A VALID IMMEDIATE MILITARY THREAT.

4. IF--AS SEEMS POSSIBLE--THE SAG TURNS DOWN OUR REQUEST TO OVERFLY THE F5'S THERE WILL BE DELAY IN THEIR DELIVERY AND EXTRA CHARGES TO THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THIS WILL NOT BE OUR FAULT. IT WILL HAPPEN BECAUSE THE EPMG IS PURSUING POLICIES BOTH INTERNALLY AND IN REGARD TO ERITREA WHICH THE SAG DOES NOT LIKE AND WITH WHICH IT DOES NOT WISH TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO THE SAG OUR RATIONALE FOR CONTINUING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE EPMG. THE SAG ACCEPTS OUR SINCERITY IN THIS REGARD, BUT MAY NOT AGREE WITH OUR CONCLUSIONS.

5. WE SUGGEST THAT IF THE SAG TURNS DOWN OUR OVER-FLIGHT REQUEST EMBASSY ADDIS INFORM THE EPMG OF THE FACT AND SAY THAT IT WILL RESULT IN A DELAY IN DELIVERIES OVER WHICH THE USG HAS NO CONTROL. WE FURTHER PROPOSE THAT EMBASSY ADDIS SUGGEST TO THE EPMG THAT IT USE ITS OWN DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT TO GET THE SAUDIS TO REVERSE THEIR DECISION. (THE NEW ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, ABDULLAH ABDURAHMAN NUR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS JUNE 24). WE SHOULD NOT ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH THIS DEMARCHE. IF IT FAILS, THE EPMG SHOULD LOGICALLY HAVE TO ASSUME ITSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DELAY.

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